

Senate Resolution 21 - Introduced

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1 1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. ____
1 2 BY BOLKCOM
1 3 A Resolution urging the United States Congress and the
1 4 President of the United States to take action on
1 5 global warming.
1 6 WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is that
1 7 increasing emissions of greenhouse gases are causing
1 8 global temperatures to rise at rates that could cause
1 9 worldwide economic disruption, environmental damage,
1 10 and public health crises; and
1 11 WHEREAS, global warming is largely due to the
1 12 combustion of fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide
1 13 and other greenhouse gases that trap heat in the
1 14 atmosphere; and
1 15 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
1 16 Change and the National Academy of Sciences have
1 17 reported that atmospheric carbon dioxide is at the
1 18 highest level in more than 500,000 years; and
1 19 WHEREAS, average global temperatures were the
1 20 hottest on record 10 of the past 16 years; and
1 21 WHEREAS, scientists have predicted that
1 22 temperatures in Iowa could rise significantly by the
1 23 end of this century, leading to hotter summers,
1 24 shorter winters, and increased drought and flood
1 25 events; and
1 26 WHEREAS, Iowa is one of the top 25 greenhouse gas
1 27 emitting states; these effects could strain drinking
1 28 water supplies, destroy wetlands, erode soil, and harm
1 29 croplands, ecosystems, and habitats, and have many
1 30 other damaging effects; and
2 1 WHEREAS, leading climatologists have estimated that
2 2 less than a decade remains before global warming could
2 3 be irreversible and that governments, businesses, and
2 4 households must act now to reduce greenhouse gas
2 5 emissions; and
2 6 WHEREAS, 165 countries and other entities around
2 7 the world have signed the Kyoto Protocol in
2 8 recognition of the urgency in acting to reduce
2 9 greenhouse gas emissions; and
2 10 WHEREAS, many business leaders, including large
2 11 manufacturing and insurance companies worldwide, have
2 12 recognized the need to reduce greenhouse gas
2 13 emissions; and
2 14 WHEREAS, the United States government has failed to
2 15 sign the Kyoto Protocol or to enact policies to reduce
2 16 national greenhouse gas emissions; and
2 17 WHEREAS, this lack of federal leadership leaves the
2 18 United States, the world's largest emitter of
2 19 greenhouse gases, without an effective national
2 20 strategy to address the threat of global climate
2 21 change, that includes rising sea levels, droughts,
2 22 flooding, severe weather events, the expansion of
2 23 diseases and invasive species, and economic
2 24 dislocation; and
2 25 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa recognizes that states
2 26 can play an integral role in adopting policies to
2 27 address climate change and promote strategies to
2 28 reduce greenhouse gases while advancing technologies
2 29 to develop clean, renewable, and homegrown energy
2 30 resources; and
3 1 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa is a national leader in
3 2 addressing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas
3 3 emissions through the production and use of biofuels,
3 4 purchasing renewable power, encouraging agricultural
3 5 conservation projects that sequester carbon, and
3 6 proposing an aggressive energy independence plan that
3 7 includes strategies to reduce carbon emissions,
3 8 generate renewable energy, and invest in energy
3 9 efficiency resources; and
3 10 WHEREAS, many clean energy and energy efficiency
3 11 policies that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases can

3 12 also boost economic development, create jobs,
3 13 stabilize energy prices, improve air quality, and
3 14 reduce traffic congestion, among other benefits; NOW
3 15 THEREFORE,
3 16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate urges
3 17 that members of Congress and President George W. Bush
3 18 take immediate action to combat global warming by
3 19 developing a full range of policies and strategies
3 20 regarding climate change, and developing proposals to
3 21 reduce nationwide greenhouse gas emissions; and
3 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of
3 23 this Resolution shall be sent to President George W.
3 24 Bush, to the Congressional delegation of Iowa, and to
3 25 the United States Congress.
3 26 LSB 2231SS 82
3 27 jr:nh/je/5.1